

Remarks

Claim 6 has been objected to for lack of clarity, for use of the phrase “are further to enable”. Applicants hope this explanation will clarify the meaning of this phrase: Claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, states that the claimed parameters are “to enable... transmissions”. Claim 6 states that, in addition to enabling transmissions, the claimed parameters are also (are further) “to enable . . . receptions”. If the examiner still believes this phrase to be unclear, applicants request the examiner to suggest language that will be acceptable.

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,615,024 (“Boros”).

Claims 2, 13, and 18 have also been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boros in view of the IEEE publication Efficient Media Access Protocols for Wireless LANs with Smart Antennas (“Tianmin”).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited references do not disclose or suggest every element of any pending claim, as the following analysis shows.

Spatial division multiple access (SDMA) transmission refers to a technique of simultaneously transmitting a different signal from each element of a multi-element antenna array, such that the combined signals form individual “beams”, each of which is

strong in one direction but weak in other directions. Although Boros acknowledges the existence of SDMA (e.g., col. 1 lines 56 and 61, col. 8 line 50), the portions of Boros cited in the rejection only pertain to deriving radio parameters for the general case, not to deriving radio parameters for SDMA in particular. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-19 under 35 USC 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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